

29. A support device as claimed in claim 19, whereby the support element ~~has support surfaces at both sides of its upper portion~~

REMARKS

The specification and abstract have been revised as required by the Examiner. With regard to the rejection of claims 2-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, claim 2 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof incorporated into independent claims 3 and 7, and the word "preferably" has been deleted. In view of the above, it is submitted that the specification and claims are now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

The indication by the Examiner of the potential allowability of claims 3-18 is noted with appreciation. Claims 3 and 7 have been amended to place them in independent form, and it is believed that they, as well as the claims dependent thereon, are now in condition for allowance. Additionally, the "whereby clause" suggested by the Examiner has been included.

Claims 19-29 constitute a new set of claims wherein the support element is connectable with a transverse thread element of the cableway without modification of the cableway. In the corresponding Swedish application, the Examiner has allowed claims of the same scope.

The advantage to the claimed subject matter is that the support element can be connected with a transverse thread element so that a cable can be branched off downwardly from the cableway at any desired location along the cableway without requiring any kind of modification to the cableway. This means that it is possible also to remove the support element and bring back the branched off cable to its original position.

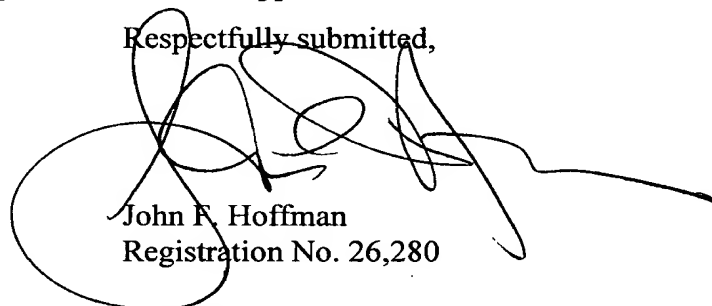
The subject matter defined by claims 19-29 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Simon or Knowles. As the Examiner correctly points out, Simon does not disclose a support device. The cable duct disclosed by Knowles is very different in that the curved troughs 102 are integral with the straight trough 101, so that their relative positions are fixed. The attachable support devices that are the subject matter of claims 19-29 can be positioned at any point along the cableway without modifying the existing cableway so that if it is desired later to remove or relocate the support device,

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the cableway itself will be unaltered. In addition to not suggesting or providing an incentive for the claimed invention, Knowles actually teaches away from the claimed invention. For these reasons, it is submitted that claims 19-29 are not obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant has developed a unique and superior technique for branching off cables from an existing cableway and is entitled to the measure of patent protection as defined by the claims in their present form.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if such would be of assistance in expediting the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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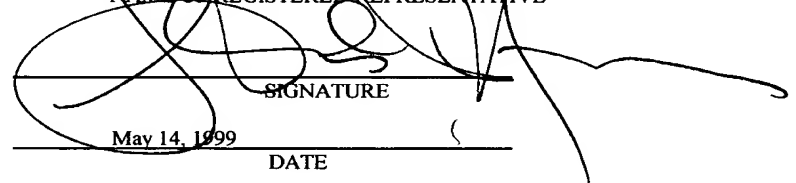
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